

Stanislaus County
**SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE 9-30-10
TIME 5:45 PM**

SHERIFF CONFIRMS SUSPECT POINTED GUN AT DETECTIVE

MODESTO, CA- Sheriff Adam Christianson has confirmed that the preliminary investigation shows Det. Kari Abbey acted in self-defense during the incident, which took place last Friday evening on Donald Street. Det. Abbey was off-duty at the time, when threatened with a replica semi-automatic firearm by the suspect, Rita Elias. Abbey was with her father and children when the shooting occurred.

The realistic-looking firearm was later determined to be a .177 caliber Crossmen BB-gun. "This is a tragic situation for both the Elias family and Det. Abbey. Deadly force is a last resort for police officers and deputy sheriffs when threatened. They don't want to take someone's life, but sometimes there's no other choice," said Sheriff Christianson.

There are multiple agencies involved in this investigation, which is on-going and includes representatives from the District Attorney's Office, who will conduct their own independent review. There is also a separate and parallel administrative investigation currently underway. These types of investigations are very complex and take weeks, if not months to complete.

"We want to reassure the community we serve that this investigation will be conducted thoroughly and appropriately. Our highest priority is to protect the public's trust and confidence in us. Once the investigation is complete, it will be turned over to the District Attorney's Office for review," the Sheriff said.

Attached is a digital photograph of the replica, semi-automatic firearm recovered the scene.

For further information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Luke Schwartz (209) 652-0211 (tschwartz@stanislaussheriff.com).

